

sheet and the sideways turning round of the hedgehog with remarkable swiftness in this very narrow space was observed.

DEPT. OF ZOOLOGY,  
JASWANT COLLEGE,  
JODHPUR,  
July 12, 1954.

ISHWAR PRAKASH

## 2. EFFECT OF EARTHQUAKE ON ELEPHANTS

Last March, there was quite a severe shock one morning about 6 a.m., when I was camping right inside elephant country on the bank of a river. My own elephant, a tusker, was just approaching me for me to mount, when he started to trumpet. I could then hear wild elephants trumpeting all round, some at a considerable distance, then came the actual 'bump'. Just prior to this, there was a distinct roar as the earthquake was approaching, it was at that period that the wild elephants together with my own were trumpeting.

I had the same experience some ten years ago in the heart of the forest, so it would appear this trumpeting is natural at the time of approach of an earthquake, or anyhow at a time of quite a severe one.

EVERGREEN COTTAGE,  
UPPER SHILLONG,  
SHILLONG, ASSAM.

FRANK NICHOLLS

## 3. RORQUAL WHALE NEAR BADAGARA, MALABAR COAST

The carcase of a rorqual whale, *Balaenoptera* sp., was washed ashore near the Government fish curing yard at Badagara on 10th February 1954. It was in a putrid condition without the tail flukes. The body measured 54 ft., the snout being 10½ ft. Each flipper was 10 ft. long. On a search the tail was found at a spot about 3½ miles north of the yard. It measured 8 ft. in length.

A scrutiny of the previous records of stranded whales on the coasts of India since 1748 as listed by Moses (1947) and supplemented by Mathew (1948), Pillai (1949), Gibson-Hill (1950), Chari (1951) and Jones (1953) show that there were only ten instances of stranding of whales along the west coast of Madras State, namely, at Mangalore (1874 & 1891), Madai (1923), Pudiangadi (1924), West Hill (1925), Baliapatnam (1926), Chalai (1927), Vadanapalli (1935), Mulki (1939) and Naduvattam (1947). To these may be added two instances of rorquals washed ashore near Thaikadapuram in April 1949 and near Gangoli in September 1951. The present record brings the total to thirteen.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL STATION,  
WEST HILL, MALABAR,  
June 26, 1954.

P. I. CHACKO  
M. J. MATHEW

## REFERENCES

- Chari, V. K. (1951): The Great Indian Rorqual or Fin-Whale *Balaenoptera indica* Blyth off Umargam (Bombay State). *JBNHS*, 50: 167.
- Gibson-Hill, C. A. (1950): A note on the rorquals (*Balaenoptera* spp.). *ibid.*, 49: 14-19.
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- Mathew, A. (1948): Stranding of a whale (*Megaptera nodosa*) on the Travancore coast in 1943. *ibid.* 47: 732-733.
- Moses, S. T. (1947): Stranding of whales on the coasts of India., *ibid.*, 47: 377-379.
- Pillai, N. G. (1949): A whale near Bombay. *ibid.* 48: 358.

## 4. A LARGE TIGER

You may be interested in the measurements of a large tiger I recently shot in Assam. I could not weigh it but it was quite the heaviest of the 28 tigers I have shot, including a genuine 'ten footer', plus about twice that number whose death I have witnessed. The measurements were as follows:—

Between pegs, nose to end of tail	...	9'-8"	(10'-4")
Circumference of chest	...	61"	(54")
" " forearm	...	24"	(21")
Length of skull, between uprights	...	15½"	(16")
Width " " across zygomatic arches	...	11"	(10½")
Height " " ...	...	7½"	(7¼")

In parenthesis immediately after these measurements I give those of a big tiger (10' 4" between pegs) shot in the Kheri Forests of the United Province on 25th March 1946 by the Hon'ble Iqbal Ahmed, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court. (Figures taken from a leaflet issued by Messrs. Van Ingen of Mysore.)

One canine which has dropped out of my tiger's skull is 5½" long and has a circumference of 3½" at the thickest part.

PACHMARHI, M.P.,

June 15, 1954.

T. B. HAWKINS

## 5. HABITS OF THE ASIATIC BLACK BEAR (*SELENARCTOS THIBETANUS THIBETANUS* G. CUVIER)

In the Fauna of British India—Mammalia Vol. II pp. 211 (1941) R. I. Pocock writes:

'It is largely nocturnal and arboreal, making in large trees rough platforms of branches, known as *wun-thaik* (bear's nest) on which it may sit and rest.'

In May 1925, I trekked from Kyatkon village on the Pegu-Mandalay railway line to Zaungtu on the Pegu River via Wakadok Forest Rest House and Shwelaung Forest Rest House (17° 35' N. 96° 20' E.), Pegu South Forest Division. I arrived at Shwelaung on the afternoon of the third day. After a short rest and tea, I strolled